

West Moves Swiftly for Mideast Peace To Forestall Red Intervention Threat

By Chalmers M. Roberts
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The United States and many other non-Communist nations are joined today in a race against time, a race to put a United Nations international police force into Egypt before the Soviet Union can intervene in the Middle East conflict.

Most American officials do not expect the Soviet Union, despite all the strong language it used in a series of messages to the United States, Britain, France and Israel on Monday, openly to send military force into the area to help the Egyptians.

But the hope here, as it appeared to be at the United Nations in New York as well, is that the U. N. force can quickly be substituted for the British, French forces along the Suez Canal and for the Israeli forces in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula. This, it is reasoned, would remove any opportunity of temptation for Russia to move in, even with so-called "volunteers" about which there was some talk from Moscow yesterday.

The United States Sixth Fleet in the Eastern Mediterranean and other American military forces in the general area were ordered on guard for any possible Soviet military activity in the Middle East. The President's message to Soviet

Premier Nikolai Bulganin on Monday said this country would "oppose" any entry of Russian forces into the area, but did not spell out how. The military order was described as a precautionary move but short of an "alert."

American officials felt that the British-French cease-fire announcement probably had come earlier than London and Paris had intended because of the threat of Soviet intervention.

President Eisenhower received the cease-fire news in a phone call he made to British Prime Minister Anthony Eden shortly before Eden made a public announcement. The President had returned to Washington by plane, rather than by car, after voting yesterday at Gettysburg because of the Middle East situation.

White House Press Secretary James C. Hagerty said the Chief Executive "naturally is quite pleased" at the news. Mr. Eisenhower later sent a message to French Premier Guy Mollet, Hagerty said.

The President, it is known, has been pressing Britain and France to accept the U. N. cease-fire call and to drop the various conditions both governments earlier had attached to their agreement.

Mr. Eisenhower yesterday also talked by phone to Ca-

nadian Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent. Canada was the sponsor of the U. N. police force and the United States is prepared to offer it American transportation facilities, probably including airlift. However, it will be composed of forces from the smaller nations only, with the United States, Russia, Britain, France and Nationalist China specifically excluded.

The President also sent a message to Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, but the contents were not disclosed.

The American aim is twofold: to help get the U. N. police force into position as quickly as possible, both to keep the Russians out and to get the British, French and Israeli out; and, as Hagerty put it yesterday, then to "proceed to a solution" of the Arab-Israeli dispute. A solution of the Suez Canal dispute also is part of this second American aim.

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